COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A mixing apparatus comprising:

an input device ~~that inputs~~ having a plurality of ~~first audio data~~ input channels;

a first assigning device that assigns respective ones of a supplied plurality of first audio data to each one of said plurality of input channels;

a ~~mixing~~ bus device that mixes the ~~input~~ plurality of first audio data assigned to the respective ones of said plurality of input channels;

an output device that outputs the audio data mixed by said bus device;

a storage device that stores a plurality of second audio data;

a plurality of operating members each being disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

~~an~~ a second assigning device that assigns at least one of the plurality of second audio data stored in said storage device~~, respectively,~~ to at least one of said plurality of operating members; and

a reproducing device ~~that reproduces the second~~ for reproducing second audio data when the at least one of said plurality of operating members to which the one of the plurality of second audio data is assigned is detected by the sensor as being depressed;

wherein ~~said input device inputs~~ the second audio data reproduced by said reproducing device is supplied to said first assigning device~~;~~ and assigned to one of said plurality of input channels by said first assigning device, and said ~~mixing~~ bus device mixes the ~~input~~ second audio data and the ~~input~~ first audio data, and said output device outputs the mixed audio data.

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Claim 2 (currently amended): A mixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least two of said plurality of operating members are disposed adjacent to each other, and if ~~the~~ a second audio data to be assigned is stereo audio data of two channels, said <u>second</u> assigning device assigns the stereo audio data of two channels to the two adjacent operating members among said plurality of operating members.

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Claim 3 (currently amended): A mixing apparatus comprising:

an input device that ~~inputs~~ having a plurality of ~~first audio data~~ input channels;

a first assigning device that assigns respective ones of a supplied plurality of first audio data to each one of said plurality of input channels;

a ~~mixing~~ bus device that mixes the ~~input~~ plurality of first audio data assigned to the plurality of input channels;

an output device that outputs audio data mixed by said bus device;

a first storage device that stores a plurality of second audio data;

a plurality of operating members each being disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

~~an~~ a second assigning device that assigns at least one of the plurality of second audio data stored in said storage device ~~, respectively,~~ to at least one of said plurality of operating members;

a second storage device; ~~and~~

a first control device that causes said second storage device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data;

a reproducing device that reads out and reproduces the second audio data from said second storage device when the at least one of said plurality of operating members to which the second audio data is assigned is detected by the sensor as being depressed; and

a second control device that causes said second storage device to store ~~timing data~~ ~~specifying~~ information indicating timing of ~~reading out the second audio data when said~~ ~~reproducing device reproduces the second audio data~~ depressing the at least one of said plurality of operating members.

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Claim 4 (currently amended): A mixing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the

second audio data caused to be stored by said first control device and the ~~timing data~~ information

caused to be stored by said second control device are stored in separate areas in said second

storage device.

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Claim 5 (currently amended): A mixing device comprising:

an input device that inputs a plurality of first audio data;

a built-in hard disk device that stores a plurality of second audio data;

an external storage device that stores a plurality of third audio data;

a plurality of operating members each being disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

an assigning device that assigns at least one ~~of~~ from among the plurality of second audio data stored in said built-in hard disk device and/or ~~at least one of~~ the plurality of third audio data stored in said external storage device, respectively, to at least one of said plurality of operating members;

a memory;

a control device that is responsive to said assigning device assigning the third audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members, for causing said built-in hard disk device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data and causing said memory to store the assigned third audio data, said control device being further responsive to said assigning device assigning the second audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members, for reading out the assigned second audio data from said built-in hard disk device and causing said memory to temporarily store the assigned second audio data without double storing the assigned second audio data in said built-in hard disk; and

a reproducing device that reads out and reproduces the second or third audio data from said memory when the at least one of said plurality of operating members to which the second or third audio data is assigned is detected as being depressed.

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Claim 6 (original): A mixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said operating members are pads.

Claim 7 (original): A mixing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said operating members are pads.

Claim 8 (original): A mixing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said operating members are pads.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method of controlling a mixing apparatus, comprising:

~~an input step of inputting a plurality of first audio data;~~

a first assigning step of assigning a respective one of a supplied plurality of first audio data to each one of a plurality of input channels of an input device;

a mixing step of mixing the ~~input~~ plurality of first audio data assigned to the respective ones of said plurality of input channels;

an output step of outputting the audio data mixed in said mixing step;

a storing step of storing a plurality of second audio data in a storage device;

~~an~~ a second assigning step of assigning at least one of the plurality of second audio data stored in said storage device, ~~respectively,~~ to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression; and

a reproducing step of reproducing the second audio data when the at least one of the plurality of operating members to which the second audio data is assigned is detected by the sensor as being depressed;

wherein ~~said input step comprises inputting~~ the second audio data reproduced in said reproducing step is supplied to said first assigning step; and assigned to one of said plurality of input channels in said first assigning step, and the ~~said mixing step comprises mixing the input~~ second audio data and the ~~input~~ first audio data are mixed in said mixing step, and the mixed audio data is output in said output step.

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Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of controlling a mixing apparatus, comprising:

~~an input step of inputting a plurality of first audio data;~~

a first assigning step of assigning respective ones of a supplied plurality of first audio data to each one of a plurality of input channels of an input device;

a mixing step of mixing the ~~input~~ plurality of first audio data assigned to the respective ones of said plurality of input channels;

an output step of outputting the audio data mixed in said mixing step;

a storing step of storing a plurality of second audio data in a first storage device;

~~an~~ a second assigning step of assigning at least one of the plurality of second audio data stored in the first storage device, respectively, to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

a first controlling step of causing a second storage device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data;

a reproducing step of reading out and reproducing the second audio data from the second storage device when the at least one of the plurality of operating members to which the second audio data is assigned is detected by the sensor as being depressed; and

a second controlling step of causing the second storage device to store ~~timing data specifying~~ information indicating timing of ~~reading out the second audio data when the second audio data is reproduced in said reproducing step~~ depressing the at least one of said plurality of operating members.

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Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of controlling a mixing device, comprising:

an input step of inputting a plurality of first audio data;

a mixing step of the input plurality of first audio data;

a first storing step of storing a plurality of second audio data in a built-in hard disk device;

a second storing step of storing a plurality of third audio data in an external storage device;

an assigning step of assigning at least one ~~of~~ from among the plurality of second audio data stored in the built-in hard disk device and/or ~~at least one of~~ the plurality of ~~the~~ third audio data stored in the external storage device, respectively, to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

a controlling step of causing, in response to assigning the third audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members in said assigning step, the built-in hard disk device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data and causing said memory to store the assigned third audio data, and reading out, in response to assigning the second audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members in said assigning step, the assigned second audio data from the built-in hard disk device and causing the memory to temporarily store the assigned second audio data without double storing the assigned second audio data in the built-in hard disk; and

a reproducing step of reading out and reproducing the second or third audio data from the memory when the at least one of the plurality of operating members to which the second or third audio data is assigned is detected as being depressed.

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Claim 12 (currently amended) A computer-readable medium containing a mixing control program ~~executed~~ executable by a computer, said program comprising:

~~an input module for inputting a plurality of first audio data;~~

a first assigning module for assigning respective ones of a supplied plurality of first audio data to each one of a plurality of input channels of an input device;

a mixing module for mixing the ~~input~~ plurality of first audio data assigned to the respective ones of said plurality of input channels;

an output module for outputting the audio data mixed in said mixing module;

a storing module for storing a plurality of second audio data in a storage device;

~~an~~ a second assigning module for assigning at least one of the plurality of second audio data stored in said storage device, respectively, to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression; and

a reproducing module for reproducing the second audio data when the at least one of said plurality of operating members to which the second audio data is assigned is detected by the sensor as being depressed;

wherein ~~said input module comprises inputting~~ the second audio data reproduced in said reproducing module is supplied to said first assigning module~~;~~ and assigned to one of said plurality of input channels in said first assigning module, and the ~~said mixing module comprises mixing the input~~ second audio data and the ~~input~~ first audio data are mixed in said mixing module, and the mixed audio data is output in said output module.

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Claim 13 (currently amended): A computer-readable medium containing a mixing control program ~~executed~~ executable by a computer, said program comprising:

~~an input module for inputting a plurality of first audio data;~~

a first assigning module for assigning respective ones of a supplied plurality of first audio data each to one of a plurality of input channels of an input device;

a mixing module for mixing the ~~input~~ plurality of first audio data assigned to the respective ones of said plurality of input channels;

an output module for outputting the first audio data mixed in said mixing module;

a storing module for storing a plurality of second audio data in a first storage device;

~~an~~ a second assigning module for assigning at least one of the plurality of second audio data stored in the first storage device, respectively, to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

a first controlling module for causing a second storage device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data;

a reproducing module for reading out and reproducing the second audio data from the second storage device when the at least one of said plurality of operating members to which the second audio data is assigned is detected by the sensor as being depressed; and

a second controlling module for causing the second storage device to store ~~timing data specifying~~ information indicating timing of ~~reading out the second audio data when the second audio data is reproduced in said reproducing module~~ depressing the at least one of said plurality of operating members.

Claim 14 (currently amended): A <u>computer-readable medium containing a</u> mixing control program ~~executed~~ <u>executable</u> by a computer, said program comprising:

an input module for inputting a plurality of first audio data;

a mixing module for the input plurality of first audio data;

a first storing module for storing a plurality of second audio data in a built-in hard disk device;

a second storing module for storing a plurality of third audio data in an external storage device;

an assigning module for assigning at least one ~~of~~<u>from among</u> the plurality of second audio data stored in the built-in hard disk device and<u>/or</u> ~~at least one of~~<u>the plurality of</u> ~~the~~ third audio data stored in the external storage device, respectively, to at least one of a plurality of operating members each disposed to be depressed and having a sensor for detecting the depression;

a controlling module for causing, in response to assigning the third audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members in said assigning module, the built-in hard disk device to temporarily store the assigned second audio data and causing said memory to store the assigned third audio data, and reading out, in response to assigning the second audio data, respectively, to the at least one of said plurality of operating members in said assigning module, the assigned second audio data from the built-in hard disk device and causing the memory to temporarily store the assigned second audio data without double storing the assigned second audio data in the built-in hard disk; and

a reproducing module for reading out and reproducing the second or third audio data

from the memory when the at least one of the plurality of operating members to which the

second or third audio data is assigned is detected as being depressed.

Claim 15 (new): A mixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the first audio data

includes one of an audio signal supplied from an A/D converter and an audio signal supplied

from an expansion card.

Claim 16 (new): A mixing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the first audio data

includes one of an audio signal supplied from an A/D converter and an audio signal supplied

from an expansion card.